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முதல்சலுகை கொடுப்பதாகச் சொன்னார்கள். அதைப்பற்றி சர்க்கார் ஏதாவது முடிவுசெய்திருக்கிறதா ? முடிவு செய்திருந்தால் எப்பொழுது கோயம்பத்தூர் ஜில்லாவிலும் குழாய்க் கிணறுகளை வெட்டுவார்கள் ? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I have already answered, Sir, that the scheme has not yet been finalized."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Sir, is it not a fact that the well said to have been sunk in that village is not being used and is not functioning? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I am sorry, Sir, I have no information."

SRI G. GOVINDAN :—" கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, தண்ணீர் வசதியில்லாத ராமநாதபுரம் ஜில்லாவில் குழாய்க் கிணறுகள் அதிகமாக வெட்ட சர்க்கார் ஏற்பாடு செய்வார்களா என்று கேட்கிறேன்."

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Yes, Sir, when the scheme is finalized, Ramanathapuram district will be given due consideration."

SRI K. R. NALLASIVAM :—" தமிழ் நாட்டில் எந்தெந்த ஜில்லாக்களில் இந்தக் குழாய்க் கிணறுகள் வெட்டமுடியும் என்பதுபற்றி சர்க்கார் ஏதாவது பரிசீலனை செய்ததா ? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Yes, Sir, Government have examined it but I do not have the data with me just now."

SRI K. PARTHASARATHY :—" Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state the amount that is charged for irrigating one acre of land from the tube-well? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, the water charge varies from Rs. 15 to Rs. 16 per acre depending on the nature of the crop raised and the rate that has been fixed for irrigation from these wells."

*Iron-ore deposits in Karuvarakkundu, South Malabar.*

* 471 Q.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have conducted any investigation regarding iron-ore deposits found in Karuvarakkundu at Chembanukkunnu in Ernad taluk, South Malabar; and

(*b*) if so, with what result?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) & (*b*) No. Sir. The investigation of the area is, however, proposed to be undertaken by the Geological Survey Department of the Government of India during the current field-season."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Are the Government aware of the fact that the local people who are manufacturing pig iron for the last so many years have stopped manufacturing it as a result of 11 10 a.m.

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competition from the Scrap Iron Merchants' Association? If so, will the Government be pleased to depute a Geologist as soon as possible to make an enquiry into the matter and ascertain whether good iron can be manufactured in the locality."

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" A Geologist has already been deputed to go into the question and the Government will give effect to the recommendations of this officer during the current field-season."

*Relief to the fishermen in the West Coast.*

* 472 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have taken any statistics regarding the acute unemployment now prevailing among the fishermen in the West Coast; and

(*b*) the relief measures taken by the Government?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) No statistics have been taken regarding the unemployment position among the fishermen of the Malabar district. But in view of certain representations received regarding the distress prevailing among them in the matter was enquired into by the Collector of Malabar and the enquiry showed that there is distress to some extent among the fishermen all along the Malabar Coast due to the poor catches of fish during the rainy season. This, however, appears to be a normal affair almost every year.

" (*b*) A sum of Rs. 5,940 has been distributed to the deserving fishermen families out of the allotments to the Malabar district from the State Famine Relief Fund and Prime Minister's National Relief Fund for thatching their huts. The Government further authorized the Collector of Malabar to utilize a sum of Rs. 4,020 available with him from the State Famine Relief Fund for giving financial help for the deserving fishermen families for thatching their huts and also for supply of free midday meals to the fishermen children studying in the Fisheries Schools in Malabar district to the extent possible."

*Agricultural statistics in Malabar.*

* 473 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) how far the pilot scheme of collecting agricultural statistics in Malabar has progressed; and

(*b*) whether the Government will be pleased to place the details on the table of the House?